

of the Senate after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate; and

"(C) 16 shall be appointed by the Secretary.":

(4) by amending paragraph (5) (as so redesignated) to read as follows:

"(5) The Committee—

"(A) shall assist and advise the Secretary—

"(i) to delineate statistical problems bearing on health and health services which are of national or international interest:

"(ii) to stimulate studies of such problems by other organizations and agencies whenever possible or to make investigations of such problems through subcommittees:

"(iii) to determine, approve, and revise the terms, definitions, classifications, and guidelines for assessing health status and health services, their distribution and costs, for use (I) within the Department of Health and Human Services, (II) by all programs administered, or funded by the Secretary, including the Federal-State-Local cooperative health statistics system referred to in subsection (e), and (III) to the extent possible as determined by the head of the agency involved, by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, and other Federal agencies concerned with health and health services:

"(iv) with respect to the design of and approval of health statistical and health information systems concerned with the collection, processing, and tabulation of health statistics within the Department of Health and Human Services, with respect to the Cooperative Health Statistics System established under subsection (e), and with respect to the standardized means for the collection of health information and statistics to be established by the Secretary under subsection (iii):

"(v) to review and comment on findings and proposals developed by other organizations and agencies and to make recommendations for their adoption or implementation by local, State, national, or international agencies:

"(vi) to cooperate with national committees of other countries and with the World Health Organization and other national agencies in the studies of problems of mutual interest:

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"(vii) to issue an annual report on the

Nation's health, its health services, their costs and distributions, and to make proposals for improvement of the Nation's health statistics and health information systems;

and
"(viii) in complying with the requirements imposed on the Secretary under part C of title XI of the Social Security Act;

"(B) shall study the issues related to the adoption of uniform data standards for patient medical record information and the electronic exchange of such information;

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"(C) shall report to the Secretary not later
after the date of the enactment of the Health
Insurance Port-
ability and Accountability Act of 1996
recommendations and
legislative proposals for such standards and
electronic
exchange; and